The A-Z of UAVs

By *the Critical Platform Studies Group*
critplat.org

Trigger warning: trivialization of state violence.

Artist Statement

We present a parody of The A-Z of AI,[1] an online interactive guide developed by Google and the Oxford Internet Institute that "offers a series of simple, bite-sized explainers to help anyone understand what AI is, how it works and how it's changing the world around us." Even as *The A-Z of AI* creates a valuable resource for non-specialist understanding of complex AI concepts, we note the gap in its engagement with pressing social issues around AI.

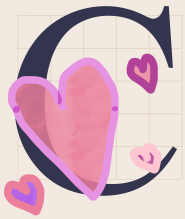
Our parody presents the *A-Z of Unmanned Autonomous Vehicles* (UAVs). The piece is meant to underline how the playfulness of Google's *A-Z of AI* must be interpreted in the context of the harms that many AI systems cause. Jabbing at Google's sponsorship of *The A-Z of AI*, the fictitious *A-Z of UAVs* is imagined to be sponsored jointly by military contractors and drone manufacturers, Lockheed Martin and Amazon.com Inc.

[1] URL: https://atozofai.withgoogle.com/

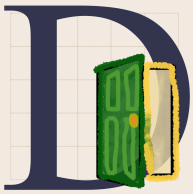
The A-Z of UAVs

is for airborne, like a goose on the wing

is for boxes, which our UAVs bring



is for care, which we take with your stuff



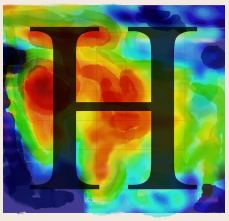
is for doorstep, where we drop it with love

is for ethics, which you can leave to us ;)

is for fires, drones can safely assess

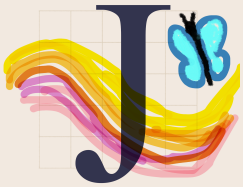
is for got ‘em, when a target is hit

The A-Z of UAVs



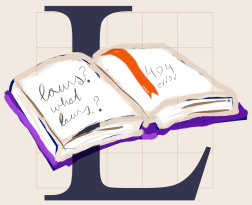
is for heatmap; drones see people with it

is for intel, drones gather stealthily

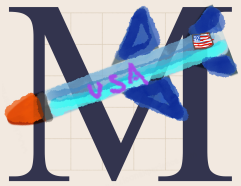


is for the joy pilots have on a spree

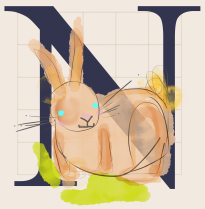
is for kill lists that make the world better



is for laws, which we follow to the letter



is for missiles, which we carry and share



is for non-combatants, whom we carefully spare

The A-Z of UAVs

is for oops, mistakes do occur

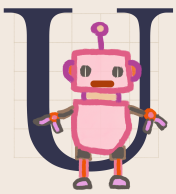
is for Prime, customers like you prefer

is for quick, which we'll always be

is for rush, for the fastest delivery

is for security, for safety and control

is for technology, inherently neutral

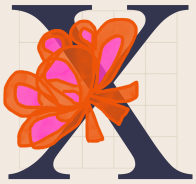


is for unmanned, so no one's in harm's way

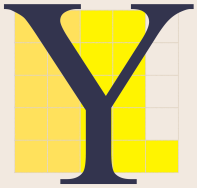
The A-Z of UAVs

is for violence, we minimize in our wake

is for is for whenever, anytime, anywhere



is for extra special, which you are, and we care



is for yellow, for Amazon's smile, hope, and explosions

is for the zeal we have for our slogan:

"We never forget who we're working for."
—Lockheed Martin

amazon

LOCKHEED MARTIN